BACKGROUNDER NO. 1-0063 JANUARY 29, 1976
DOLPH HAERING/MUNICH

SECURITY AT INNSBRUCK OLYMPICS

ANNCR:

WITH ONE MORE WEEK TO GO BEFORE THE TWELFTH OLYMPIC WINTER GAMES BEGIN (FEB. 4) IN INNSBRUCK, AUSTRIA, THE OLYMPIC VILLAGE THERE IS RAPIDLY FILLING UP. VOA'S DOLPH HAERING HAS A REPORT ON SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS THERE TO PROTECT ATHLETES AND VISITORS FROM POSSIBLE TERRORIST ACTS.

VOICE:

IT IS LITTLE WONDER, PERHAPS, THAT THE OLYMPIC VILLAGE IN INNSBRUCK LOOKS ALMOST LIKE A FORTRESS. THE MEMORIES OF THE MUNICH SUMMER OLYMPICS MASSACRE IN NINETEEN SEVENTY TWO, WHEN ELEVEN ISRAELI ATHLETES WERE KILLED, AND LAST MONTH'S KIDNAPPING OF O-P-E-C OIL MINISTERS BY TERRORISTS IN VIENNA, HAVE PRODUCED THE TIGHTEST SECURITY IN INNSBRUCK OF POSSIBLY ANY OLYMPIC GAMES.

THE OLYMPIC VILLAGE, PROTECTED BY A TWO METER HIGH FENCE, ELECTRONIC WARNING DEVICES AND HIDDEN CAMERAS, IS PATROLLED BY GUARDS WITH SUBMACHINE GUNS AND DOGS. NO ONE WITHOUT A SPECIAL PASS WILL BE ADMITTED TO THE VILLAGE. SECURITY FORCES WILL MAKE SPOT CHECKS OF BAGS AND LUGGAGE CARRIED INTO THE VILLAGE. FOOD AND OTHER SUPPLIES WILL ALSO BE CONTROLLED.

THE INNSBRUCK SECURITY CHIEF DIRECTS A FORCE OF TWO THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED MEN IN WHAT HAS BEEN DESCRIBED AS AUSTRIA'S MOST COMPREHENSIVE SECURITY OPERATION. IT IS

HIS RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT ALMOST ONE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED ATHLETES FROM THIRTY-EIGHT COUNTRIES. SPECIAL SECURITY MEASURES HAVE BEEN WORKED OUT, AS WELL, FOR THE PROTECTION OF PROMINENT GUESTS EXPECTED TO BE IN INNSBRUCK DURING THE GAMES. FOLLOWING THE TERRORIST ATTACK ON O-P-E-C HEADQUARTERS LAST MONTH, A NUMBER OF OLYMPIC VISITORS--INCLUDING CHIEFS OF STATE -- REPORTEDLY CANCELED RESERVATIONS. THESE REPORTS ARE NOT CONFIRMED. NONE OF THE ORGANIZING OFFICIALS IN INNSBRUCK IS WILLING TO SUPPLY INFORMATION ON V-I-P VISITORS.

THE INNSBRUCK SECURITY CHIEF SAYS HE HAS RECEIVED NO WARNINGS OR THREATS OF POSSIBLE TERRORIST ATTACKS. HIS LARGE SECURITY FORCE, INCLUDING A SPECIAL ANTI-TERRORIST UNIT, HAVE BEEN FORMED, HE SAYS, TO DISCOURAGE ANY INCIDENTS. THE IRONY PERHAPS IS THAT THIS MAJOR SECURITY OPERATION HAS BEEN PLANNED TO PROTECT WHAT ARE CALLED THE "GAMES OF PEACE."

GH/PBM